

creating a suction with the suction source, the created suction then communicated to the first suction port;

grasping the surface of the heart with the suction in the first suction port; and

fixing the first member to a stationary object.

27. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the step of accessing a surface of the heart comprises a cutting through an intercostal space.

28. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the step of accessing a surface of the heart comprises inserting an endoscope and a cutting instrument through the chest wall and cutting through the pericardium with the cutting instrument.

29. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the step of positioning a first member having a first suction port along a first planar surface on the surface of the heart further comprises the steps of providing a first member having a first semi-circular arm, the first semi-circular arm having the first suction port disposed along a first planar surface of the first semi-circular arm.

30. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the step of positioning a first member having a first suction port along a first planar surface on the surface of

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the heart further comprises the steps of providing a first member having a first semi-circular arm and a second semi-circular arm, the second semi-circular arm disposed opposite the first semi-circular arm wherein a substantially circular are is disposed between the semi-circular arms.

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31. (New) The method of claim 26 further comprising the steps of:
positioning a second member having a second suction port along a second planar surface on the surface of the heart;
coupling a suction source to the suction port of the second member;
grasping the surface of the heart with the suction in the second suction port; and
fixing the second member to the stationary object.

32. (New) The method of claim 29 further comprising the steps of moving the first member away from the second member. while maintaining the first member and the second member in grasping contact with the surface of the heart.

REMARKS

Applicants have preliminarily amended the claims to put them into a condition similar to those of the parent application. Namely, in the parent application the claims